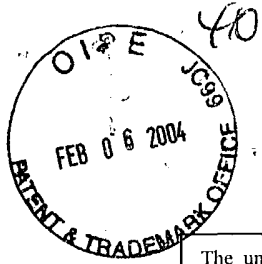


1625



Attorney Docket No. 4296-144 US

The undersigned certifies that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 4, 2004.

Diane Dunn McKay

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

 In re Application of
 HIRAO et al.

Serial No. 09/919,024

Filed: July 31, 2001

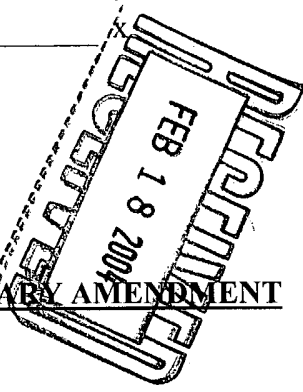
Title: METHOD FOR STARTING UP
 REACTOR

Group Art Unit: 1625

Examiner: OH, Taylor Victor

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend this application as follows: